

REMARKS

In response to the outstanding Official Action dated November 2, 1999, Applicant has amended claim 1 to delete the term "type" from "polymer-type" to overcome the 35 USC 112 objection stating that the term "type" was indefinite. Currently, claims 1-3 are pending with all standing rejected based upon 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a) citing JP 63069897 and U.S. Patent No. 5,158,710 as either anticipating or rendering obvious the subject matter of claims 1-3. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-3 based upon the following arguments.

35 USC 112

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the term "type" in "polymer-type" was objected to in claim 1 as indefinite. Applicant has deleted the term in the amended claim in response to the objection to the term.

35 USC 102(b)

JP 63069897 was cited within the outstanding Official Action as disclosing a detergent composition comprising 5 to 95% of one or amines and 0.2 to 50% of one or more high boiling point solvents, which can include diethylene glycol monobutyl ether and benzyl alcohol. This reference was said to either teach all the limitations of claims 1-3 or render the claims obvious since each of the claimed components is disclosed within the reference.

Applicant respectfully asserts that JP 63069897 fails to teach or suggest a cleaning composition including both a benzyl alcohol (15 - 40% by weight) and a soluble organic solvent (5 - 75% by weight) as claimed in the present application. Instead, the cited reference teaches only that one or more high boiling point solvents are added without specifying or suggesting that benzyl alcohol must be added in combination with another solvent. Within the present invention, benzyl alcohol is included for improving the releasability of the releasant to aid in removing a floor polish. The cited reference does not disclose or suggest the need for increased releasability or the benefits of including benzyl alcohol.

Furthermore, JP 63069897 fails to disclose the subject matter of claims 1-3 with sufficient specificity to constitute anticipation. The ranges disclosed in JP 63069897 are much broader than the narrower and more specific ranges of the present application. Also, the narrow ranges of the present application are critical to the success of the claimed release agent, whereas the broad ranges disclosed in the reference would be detrimental. For example, JP 63069897 teaches an amine comprising between 5 and 95% by weight of the detergent composition, whereas the present application claims an amine comprising only between 10 and 20% by weight. The restricted range is significant since an amine composition of less than

10% results in insufficient releasability, while greater than 20% gives rise to concerns of toxicity, page 7, lines 12 - 15. Furthermore, this reference fails to anticipate the present invention since it fails to give specific examples of detergent compositions having the claimed elements falling within their respective claimed ranges.

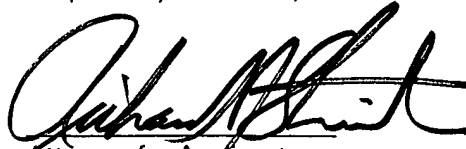
35 USC 103(a)

Additionally, claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,158,710 issued to Van Eenam. Van Eenam is cited as disclosing a microemulsion composition comprising an amine surfactant (0.1 - 100%), a coupler (0.0 - 99.9%), and at least one sparingly water soluble organic solvent (0.2 - 6%) including ethylene glycol dibutyl ether and benzyl alcohol. This reference discloses removing a floor finish and is said in the outstanding Official Action to generally teach all the limitations found in the present claims. Applicant respectfully contends that Van Eenam fails to disclose or suggest the claimed composition of the present application.

Specifically, Van Eenam discloses ethylene glycol dibutyl ether as a water-soluble organic solvent, which is not equivalent to the claimed di- or triethylene compounds of the present application. This reference is also directed to a microemulsion which limits the soluble organic solvent to no more the 6% by weight to prevent the emulsion from becoming a true solution, col. 3, lines 7-9. The present application claims at least 5% organic solvent and at least 15% benzyl alcohol, both of which are disclosed as organic solvents in Van Eenam. Thus, the reference teaches away from the present invention by restricting the inclusion of organic solvents to below that which is claimed. One would not add 20% by weight of an organic solvent as presently claimed to the invention in Van Eenam, since such would render the Van Eenam invention inoperable by creating a true solution.

In view of the aforesaid, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is patentably distinct from the cited prior art references and nonobvious to one skilled in the art favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing. Additionally, no new matter has been added in the newly added claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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